

立法會

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(4)445/17-18(06)

Ref. : CB4/PL/TP

Panel on Transport Meeting on 19 January 2018

Background brief on widening of Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section)

Purpose

This paper provides background information on the widening of Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) and summarizes the major views and concerns expressed by Legislative Council ("LegCo") Members on the project.

Background

Project Cost, Scope and Nature

2. Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) is an important primary distributor road linking the Northeast New Territories with West Kowloon (through Tsing Sha Highway) and Tsuen Wan (through Shing Mun Tunnel). At present, Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) between Fo Tan Road and Sha Tin Rural Committee Road is a dual two-lane carriageway.

3. In the legislative session of 2014-2015, the Administration submitted the funding proposal, at an estimated cost of \$43.2 million in money-of-the-day prices, for the detailed design and associated site investigation works of widening of Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) ("the Project"). The proposal was meant to upgrade part of **861TH**¹ to Category A, comprising –

- (a) detailed design of the works as described in (i) to (iv) below;
 - (i) widening of Tai Po Road of about 1.1 kilometres between Sha Tin Rural Committee Road and Fo Tan Road from dual-two lane to dual three-lane;

¹ The remainder of the 861TH was retained in Category B and the Administration would seek funding for the construction works which comprised the works described in paragraph (a)(i) to (a)(iv) above according to their implementation programme.

- (ii) modification of Sha Tin Rural Committee Road bridge;
 - (iii) modification of the two footbridges across Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) near Wo Che Street and near Fung Wo Lane respectively; and
 - (iv) associated drainage works, landscape works, noise mitigation measures, street lighting works and traffic control and surveillance system.
- (b) associated site investigation works and supervision; and
- (c) preparation of tender documents and assessment of tenders for the works described in paragraph (a)(i) to (iv) above.

4. A plan showing the location of the proposed works project is at **Appendix I**.

5. According to the Administration, traffic congestion frequently occurs during peak hours with the volume/capacity (v/c) ratio² around 1.24³. According to the traffic impact assessment of the investigation study of the proposed works project, it is envisaged that the congestion will become worse in 2021 with the v/c ratio reaching 1.31 in view of the continued development in Sha Tin and North Districts. Upon the completion of the proposed works project, it is anticipated that the v/c ratio during peak hours at Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) can be reduced from 1.31 to 0.93 and from 1.19 to 0.94 at the northbound and southbound lanes respectively. With regard to the morning traffic from Ma Liu Shui to New Town Plaza about which the public is more concerned, it is estimated that the travelling time can be reduced from 18 minutes to 7 minutes in 2021.

Major views and concerns of Members

6. Members were consulted on the above said funding proposal for the Project at the meeting of the Panel on Transport ("the Panel") held on 20 March 2015. Subsequently, endorsement of the above works and approval on the above funding proposal was sought from Public Works Subcommittee on 30 June 2015 and Finance Committee on 10 July 2015 respectively. In its paper which set out the Government's transport-related initiatives under the Policy Address issued in October 2017, the Administration indicated its plan to obtain funding approval for the road widening works of a section of Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) in this legislative session with a view to commencing the

² Volume/capacity (v/c) ratio is an indicator of the performance of a road. A v/c ratio equal to or less than 1.0 means that a road has sufficient capacity to cope with the volume of vehicular traffic and the traffic flow will be smooth. A v/c ratio above 1.0 indicates the onset of congestion; that above 1.2 indicates more serious congestion with traffic speeds deteriorating progressively as a result of further increase in traffic.

³ LC Paper CB(4)655/14-15(03)

works as soon as possible to meet traffic demand. Members' major views and concerns are summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

Implementation of the Project

7. At the meeting of the Panel held on 20 March 2015, members supported the funding proposal of the Project in principle. A member urged for early implementation of the Project and queried why the Administration had not carried out the proposed works earlier since the traffic congestion problem of the relevant road section had already existed for many years.

8. The Administration explained that they had been closely monitoring the traffic demand in Sha Tin and taking measures to tackle traffic congestion in the district. To relieve the traffic bottleneck near the New Town Plaza, an additional traffic lane connecting Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) with Tsing Sha Highway near the Scenery Court was being constructed. The relevant works were expected to be completed by mid-2015. After the completion of the above works, the Administration would commence the works relevant to the widening of Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section), i.e. the Project as mentioned in paragraph 3, which was targeted to commence in end of 2015 for completion by end of 2017.

Projection on volumn/capacity ratio

9. In response to a member's enquiry of whether the projected v/c ratio in 2021 and 2026 upon the completion of the widening works had taken into account the additional traffic generated by the future population growth in the New Territories North and the new cross boundary control point, the Administration advised that additional traffic volumn generated by known development projects had been taken into account. The Administration further advised that the relevant road section might be operated beyond its capacity a few years after 2026 upon completion of the widening works.

Construction of Trunk Road T4

10. Some members queried whether the widening works could provide a long term solution to alleviate the traffic congestion problem at Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) and enquired about the progress of the construction of Trunk Road T4, which would serve as a bypass to the above road section, as a long-term measure to solve the traffic congestion in Sha Tin. Members noted that in view of the objections by local residents, the Administration was actively liaising with its consultants to study whether there would be other design alternatives for the Trunk Road T4, including whether a portion of the road could be constructed as a tunnel or not.

11. At the meeting of the Panel held on 20 October 2017, a member queried whether the anticipated traffic flow under the plan could truly reflect the situation arising from the rapid population growth of East New Territories since the current plan of road widening works of Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) was based on the data and statistics obtained earlier. The member then urged the Administration to reconsider the development of the Trunk Road T4 as soon as possible.

Major types of vehicles using Tai Po Road

12. Members noted from the supplementary information provided by the Administration in response to the enquiries raised at the meeting of the Panel held on 20 March 2015 that over 70 percent of vehicles using Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) were private cars and the rest included light medium and heavy goods vehicle, buses and so on.

Cost of the Project

13. A member queried why it was necessary to include a provision of \$6.3 million for price adjustment for consultancy work when there was already a sum of \$3.4 million for contingencies. The Administration advised that provision for price adjustment and contingences in the estimated cost of the Project were to meet the possible additional costs arising from inflation and extra works of the consultancy and site investigation respectively in the course of implementing the Project. Such inclusion was in line with the government's practice for contracts which lasted for more than one year. Members noted that the detailed design of the Project would last for about 1.5 to two years.

14. A member expressed that the inclusion of the above mentioned provision was not acceptable in the commercial sector. Another member urged the Administration to review the practice of including price adjustment in consultancy contract.

15. In response to a member's enquiry of whether the Administration would set a ceiling for the project cost, the Administration advised that the estimate of \$43.2 million was considered to be sufficient to meet the proposed detailed design and associated site investigation works. Members also noted that pursuant to the requests of local residents, the Administration had agreed to add lifts at the relevant interchange and noise barriers and that the district would be further consulted on the Project during the detailed design stage.

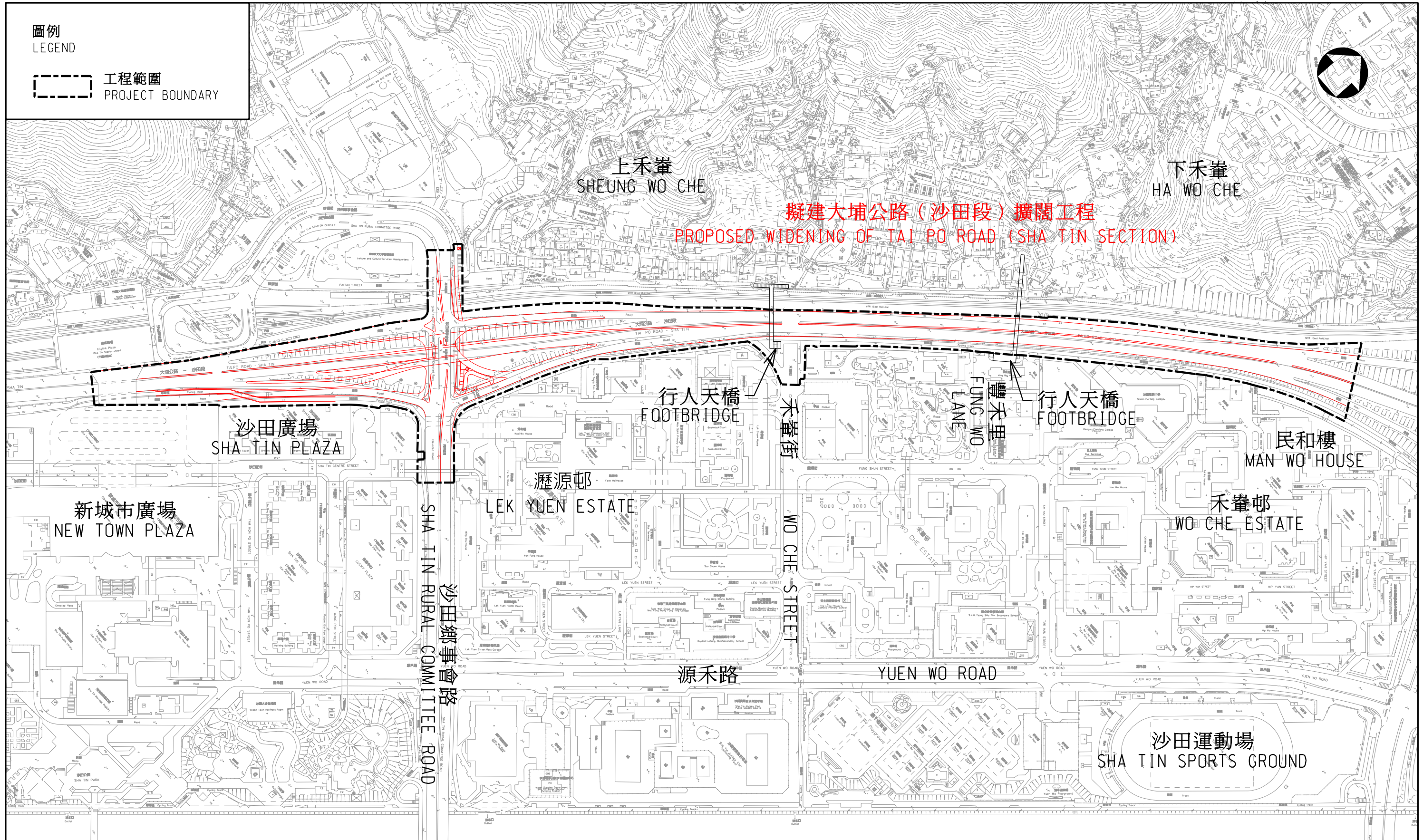
Latest position

16. The Administration plans to consult members on the funding proposal for upgrading 7861TH-2 "Widening of Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) – construction" to Category A at the Panel meeting to be held on 19 January 2018.

Relevant papers

17. A list of relevant papers is in **Appendix II**.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
5 January 2018



二〇一四年至二〇一五年度交通事務委員會文件 PANEL ON TRANSPORT SUBMISSION 2014-2015

圖則名稱 drawing title 大埔公路（沙田段）擴闊工程 WIDENING OF TAI PO ROAD (SHA TIN SECTION)	繪圖 drawn H K TSANG	簽署 initial [Signature]	日期 date 3.3.2015	項目編號 item no. 861TH	辦事處 office 新界東拓展處 NEW TERRITORIES EAST DEVELOPMENT OFFICE  土木工程拓展署 CIVIL ENGINEERING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
	核對 checked K C YAN	簽署 initial [Signature]	日期 date 3.3.2015	比例 scale 1:3 500 @ A3	
	核准 approved T C SHEA	簽署 initial [Signature]	日期 date 3.3.2015	圖則編號 drawing no. CDESHT0005	

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List of relevant papers

Meeting	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Transport	20.3.2015	Administration's paper Minutes of the meeting Supplementary Information on widening of Tao Po Road (Sha Tin Section) – detailed design and site investigation
Public Works Subcommittee	30.6.2015	861TH Widening of Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) Minutes of meeting
Finance Committee	10.7.2015	Agenda Minutes of meeting
Panel on Transport	20.10.2017	Administration Paper